

MIFluFocus
December 1, 2005
Weekly Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Disease Surveillance System: As flu season continues, reported flu-like illness activity remains at relatively low levels and is currently only slightly higher than reported activity earlier in the flu season. However, overall flu-like illness reports remain similar to last year's reports for this time.

Syndromic Surveillance: As compared to last year's reports for this time, chest rub, nasal product and thermometer sales are slightly increased; antifever, pediatric cold, and cough/cold products are neither increased nor decreased; and adult cold products and electrolytes are decreased. Antifever and adult and pediatric cold product sales are decreased from levels seen in early to mid-October. Chest rub, electrolyte, nasal product, and thermometer sales have shown slight increases over the previous several weeks. Cough/cold medication sales have been relatively constant recently.

Emergency Department visits due to respiratory complaints continue to decrease from this flu season's highest levels reported in early to mid-October. These reports are slightly decreased when compared to last year's reports for this time. Emergency Department visits due to constitutional complaints have remained constant throughout flu season so far and are neither increased nor decreased as compared to last year's reports for this time.

Sentinel Surveillance (as of December 1, 2005): Influenza sentinel providers across the state are reporting 1.1% of office visits are due to influenza-like illness (ILI) for the week ending November 26, 2005. This level slightly increased from last report, but represents low activity overall. Sentinel Laboratories report sporadic positive cases this week, similar to last week.

Community or Facility-Based Outbreaks (as of December 1, 2005): None reported.

MDCH Laboratory Surveillance (as of December 1, 2005): There have been no influenza cases confirmed at MDCH Laboratories in the last week. The MDCH laboratory previously reported one positive influenza from SW Michigan that was confirmed as an A,H3N2, October 7.

National: During week 46 (November 13 - November 19, 2005), influenza activity occurred at a low level in the United States. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza were below baseline levels. Twenty states, New York City, and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity, and 30 states reported no influenza activity.

International Activity: Influenza activity remained low during week 45.

MDCH reported **SPORADIC** activity to the CDC for this past week ending **11/26/2005**.
